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General Notes.

GEOGRAPHY AND TRAVEL.

Africa.—The Ports of German East Africa.—The coast of German East Africa has few good ports; the Bay of Mikindani is without shelter against the wind and ocean waves; that of Lindi is but the mouth of a river, rendered difficult by a dangerous bar; and those of Kisvara and Kilva-Kivindje are so shallow that ships cannot approach within two miles of the coast. The best port is Dares-Salam. Though the entrance is narrow, and full of reefs, there is at least sufficient depth and full shelter. Baganwyo owes its importance entirely to its proximity to Zanzibar, as the harbor is shallow, as is also that of Saadani. Pangani has a bar, and owes its prominence to the caravans that leave it.

The Boundaries of the Congo Free-State.—The boundaries of the Congo Free-State, as finally determined by the Berlin Conference, and by special agreements with France, are as follows:

(1). On the south. From the mouth of the river which falls into the ocean to the south of Kabinda Bay to the confluence of the Cula-calla with the Luculla; then along the meridian of this point until the Luculla is again met with, and along the Luculla to its confluence with the Chiloanga. Along the latter river to its most northern source. From this point eastward an irregular line as far as Stanley-Pool; so arranged that the disputed villages and markets are parted between France and the Free State. The boundary then follows the centre line of Stanley-Pool and of the Congo as far as the confluence of that river with the Ubangi; then up the latter to 4° north latitude, and along this parallel to 30° east longitude.

(2). On the east. The meridian of 30° to 1° 20' south latitude; then a straight line to the north end of Lake Tanganyika, along the centre of this lake; then a straight line to Lake Moero, in 8° 30' south latitude; along the centre of Lake Moero, and along the line of the river to Lake Bangweolo.

(3). On the south. A line from the southern end of Lake Bangweolo to 24° east longitude, following the water-shed between the Congo and Zambezi. Along the water-shed of the Kasai, from 12° to 6° south latitude; along the latter parallel till the Quango is reached, and along that river until the parallel of Nokki. This parallel is fol-

lowed until it crosses the meridian of the mouth of the Wango-Wango; then along the Congo from the confluence of the Wango-Wango to the ocean. The western or ocean frontage of the Free State is thus exceedingly short, reaching only from the mouth of the Congo to the south of Kabinda Bay. By royal decree the Free State was, on the first of August, 1888, divided into eleven districts, viz., Banana, Boma, Matadi, Cataracts, Stanley-Pool, Kasai, Equator, Ubangi and Welle, Arawimi and Welle, Stanley-Falls, and Lualaba.

Asia.—Another Russian Journey in Central Asia.—Another Russian traveler, M. Groubtschewsky, has been recently traveling in Central Asia. On his first journey he crossed the Pamir to the valley of the Aksu. At the junction of this river with the Istyk he was arrested by Chinese agents. Having got rid of these by presents, he followed up the Aksu and the Wakhan-daria, but soon met with a detachment of Afghan troops, sent on purpose to arrest Russians. These troops followed him, and camped near him; but in the night he assaulted them, took them prisoners, and made them conduct him to a pass in the mountains. Returning by another route, he traversed the Mustagh glaciers, and followed the course of the Yarkand-daria. Meeting an insurmountable obstacle, he was obliged to return, and direct his march to the north, passing by the peak of Tagharma. Here the food and strength of the Russians were exhausted, and a messenger was sent to Kashgar for supplies. The last news from the traveler announces his safe arrival in Ferghana.

Nepal.—Emil Schlagintweit informs us that the population of Nepal is about two millions. In the east the Tibetan race extends to the valley of Kosi; in the west the Hindu, somewhat mixed, extends to that of Gandach; and between them are located other peoples, coming from Central Asia. Among these tribes are the Leptcha, who are short, and have flat foreheads, pointed chins, and very long arms; the Limbu, who occupy the spurs of the Himalayas, and are neither Buddhists nor Brahmins; and the Hayu, who inhabit marshy spots at the foot of the mountains, and are even less civilized than the Limbu. The dominant people of Nepal is the Gurkha, who are Brahminists.

The Upper Yenesei.—M. Yatchevsky, one of the companions of Colonel Bobyr, notices the distribution of the glaciers in the mountains that separate Siberia from Mongolia. The limit of perpetual snow in this region is about 2,400 metres on the north, and 3,000 on the south side, but there are few glaciers properly so-called. That of Munho-Sardigh is like an Alpine glacier, but most of the

others seem to be disappearing from the dryness of the climate. The region Sayan, watered by the sources of the Yenesei and its affluents, has no trace of a plateau, but is an Alpine country, a mountainous crest, with two rapid slopes.

E. Dulio's Journey from Shoa to Assab.—"Notes of a Journey from Shoa to Assab," by Emilio Dulio (*Cosmos*, Vol. IX., 1888), contains much valuable information upon the habits of the Abyssinians. While King Menelik was absent during his campaign against Harar, the news that he was dead was spread among the Mussulman population, whereupon the Azag Volde Tadik, Governor of the country during the King's absence, having heard of the conquest of Harar and the King's safety, imposed upon every Mussulman the payment of a heavy *tascar*,—*i.e.*, of funeral expenses for the King they had believed dead. The region of Bahadu Afar is still independent of Shoa. Some of the Afar women are of a most splendid type, while many of the men are, on the contrary, of feminine appearance. The men wear a long sash twisted two or three times round the body, and secured at the waist with the poignard; the women have a single piece of cotton from waist to ankle, secured upon the flank in a loose fashion, so that it often comes undone; in which case the girl takes it entirely off with a graceful and tempting smile, and readjusts it in the presence of male spectators. Married women wear for their principal adornment two anklets so heavy as to render their gait ungraceful. These anklets are the gift of the spouse, are secured by hammering on the occasion of marriage, and are not taken off unless the husband dies first.

South of Shoa the party traversed the plain of Cussurtu, visited the hot springs of Tiho, the mountain Aulia-hali, and the valleys of Galatu and Erole. Then descending into the valley of the Hawash, they came to the smaller branch of the river, and found it dry save here and there a stagnant puddle. Crossing the Hawash, the party reached Gambo-corria, a residence of the Sultan of Aussa. Sr. Dulio believes that the main Hawash can be made a means of communication with Shoa.

The Loess of Central Asia.—According to M. A. Krassnow, the Loess of the Thian-Chan is caused by the action of the rains upon the glacial mud, modified by the dryness of the atmosphere. M. Krassnow has discovered glaciers upon the upper courses of the rivers Zir-tass and Quelu. In the glacial period the glaciers of this region must have been almost equal to those of Europe, as the ice reached to

Lake Issyk-Kul, and covered the chains between it and China. The quality of the ice is different from that of the Alps, and the glacial flora is better preserved than in the latter. On the north-west slopes the plants are the same as those of Europe at similar heights, but upon the south-east slopes the steppe flora rises to 3,000 metres.

Europe.—The Abruzzi.—The part of Italy known as Abruzzo contains about 530 square leagues, and nearly a million inhabitants. It extends along the Adriatic for a length of 200 kilometres, from the river Tronto to the Trigno, is formed by the central group of the Apennines, and contains the highest peaks of that chain. Between the Tronto and the Gizio these mountains form a double line, separated by a series of the most picturesque valleys. The eastern crest is cut through by the Pescara, and is dominated by Il Gran Sasso d'Italia (2,916 metres), the highest mountain in peninsular Italy. Abruzzo is divided into three provinces, now named after their capitals, Christi, Teranco, and Aquila, but properly known as Abruzzo Citeriore, Abruzzo Ulteriore, and Abruzzo Ulteriore II. Among the high peaks of this region are those of Corvo (2626 m.), Malacosta (2,447 m.), Franco (2,135 m.), Scindarella (2,237 m.), Paganica (2,097 m.), Prena (2,566 m.), and Brancatello (2,387 m.). All these crests and peaks, with other lower ones, form an immense group, over which towers Il Gran Sasso.

The Population of Russia.—According to the “Annuaire Statistique Russe” for 1885, the present population of the Russian Empire is as follows:

Russia in Europe,	81,725,185
Government of the Vistula (Poland),	7,960,304
Caucasus,	7,284,547
Siberia,	4,313,680
Central Asia,	5,327,098
Grand Duchy of Finland,	2,176,421
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Total,	108,787,235

This total comprises 54,063,353 males, and 53,883,042 females, besides 835,840 individuals (in Central Asia) whose sex is not stated. Leaving out Central Asia, the proportion of male to female births is as 106.3 to 100. The excess of births over deaths in Russia in Europe is 13.3 per 1,000 inhabitants; in Poland, 12.7 per 1,000.

The Soil of France.—Recent statistics relative to the present condition of the soil of France are not encouraging. Out of the fifty

millions of hectares of cultivable surface, some four and a half millions, comprising the landes, marshes, heath, etc., are absolutely without culture; more than three and a half millions fallow; four millions are covered with natural, unirrigated pasture in plains, hillsides, etc.; and more than half the forests, comprising nearly five millions of hectares, are without roads, uncared for, and unexplored,—abandoned entirely to nature. Thus more than one-third of the cultivable area of France is practically uncultivated. More than this, the agricultural population, which in 1861 was 19,873,493, had in 1881 decreased to 18,249,209, and the rate of decrease seems to have accelerated since that date.

Geographical Notes.—Two German travelers, Dr. Humann and Professor Haufmann, have taken an archæological journey into the centre of Asia Minor, and have operated in the neighborhood of Aidin, on the site of the Acropolis of Thralles, one of the most renowned centres of antiquity.

Captain J. Jacobsen, already known for his travels in British Columbia, Alaska and Siberia, has, since the end of September, 1887, been exploring the East Indian Archipelago with his friend Kuhne, in the service of the ethnographical museum of Berlin. He has visited Flores, Wetter, Kiffer (a small populous island where the people call themselves Christians, and go regularly to church, and yet worship wooden images), Letti, Moa, Luang, and Babar. Herr Kuhne then explored Ceram, Goram, and Burru, and Captain Jacobsen, Timulant, Timoe, and other islands. The result was a considerable collection of ethnographical material.

Since the death of the illustrious general Prejevalsky, the Russian expedition has been under the direction of Colonel Pietzov, already known from his geographical researches in Mongolia. A mining engineer, M. Bogdanovitch, accompanied him.

Colonel Bolcheff has published the most complete map of the Pamir that has yet been made. The names are in French, and the French Government has given an academical prize to its author.

The leveling of the southern part of the Siberian coast between Vladivostok and Ussuri has shown that there are no obstacles to the construction of a railroad. Moreover, the engineers have found that the flat and marshy lands to the south of Lake Hanka are of great fertility. Numerous colonists have already established themselves there.

The Chinese have recently sent a scientific expedition into Russia as a sort of response to the numerous expeditions which have visited China of recent years. The chief of the expedition is Miao, a high functionary in the finance department, and the secretary is a savant named Joney, who speaks Russian well. The visitors have been well received, especially at Irkutsk.

Among the very few lakes of South America is that of Tacarigua in northern Venezuela. This was visited by Humboldt, and was then 56 kilometres in length. In 1887 M. Hesse-Wartegg visited it and found that its length was diminished to 49 kilometres. The coasts resemble those of the Lake of Geneva, and its twenty-two islands recall those of lake Pazcuaro in Mexico.

The Pamues, a tribe living upon the lower part of the river Muni, have lately become threatening in their attitude toward the Europeans of the district belonging to Spain, between the Cameroons and the French colony on the Gaboon. As the Spaniards had no available force at hand, the French, who lay claim to part of that coast, had to be called in to protect life and property.

GEOLOGY AND PALÆONTOLOGY.

Contributions to the Knowledge of the Genus *Pachyphyllum*.—Up to 1870 the genus *Pachyphyllum* was not supposed by geologists to be represented in any of the American strata. But in 1870, Dr. White described a new species of coral from the Rockford shales, at Rockford and Hackberry, Iowa, as *Smithia woodmani* (Geol. Rep. Iowa, 1870, Vol. II., p. 188). This species was, however, afterwards shown to belong to the genus *Pachyphyllum*,¹ instead of the genus *Smithia*, to which it was at first referred. Again, in 1873, another new species of coral from the same beds was described by Hall and Whitfield,² as *Pachyphyllum solitarium*, intimating at the same time, however, that the specimen so referred differed from the generic description of *Pachyphyllum* in its being *solitary*. Since that time we have secured very large numbers of finely preserved specimens of this species, together with one new form from the same beds, as well as a

¹ 23d Ann. Rep. Board of Regents of New York State Cabinet, p. 231.

² 23d Ann. Rep. Board of Regents of New York State Cabinet, p. 232.